



September 23, 2005

Georgia Healthcare Providers:

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) conducts annual surveys which capture data and information about the utilization of healthcare facilities, selected medical equipment and specific healthcare services that are regulated by Georgia's Certificate of Need (CON) rules and other state statutes. Information from these surveys has many applications, including but not limited to CON review determinations, health planning purposes, state financial allocations and determinations, and other official purposes.

Typically, utilization and financial data collected from these surveys represent service consumption and charges for resources consumed largely by Georgia residents. The number of out-of-state patients receiving healthcare services in Georgia tends to be relatively consistent from year to year. Since Georgia healthcare providers are playing a prominent role in providing healthcare services to evacuees from the Hurricane Katrina disaster and may provide services to evacuees from Hurricane Rita, DCH expects that data reported on upcoming 2005 Calendar Year and 2006 State Fiscal Year surveys, and possibly future years, may show unusual increases due to the consumption of services by large numbers of evacuees.

The purpose of this letter is to inform Georgia healthcare providers that DCH will require survey respondents to distinguish between services provided to evacuees and those provided to their normal/usual patient population on their upcoming annual surveys. In an effort to decrease the administrative burden on providers, distinctions will be made in a limited number of sections of the surveys including sections relating to utilization data (namely visits, patients, procedures, patient origin, etc.) and in some sections collecting financial data.

Specific questions regarding the Department's expectations on upcoming surveys should be directed to Matthew Jarrard, Statistical Unit Chief, Division of Health Planning at 404-656-0467 or via email at mjarrard@dch.state.ga.us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Burgess".

Tim Burgess
Commissioner